



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 233d BASE SUPPORT BATTALION (DARMSTADT)
UNIT NUMBER 29500-0001
APO AE 09175-0001

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AEUSG-DA-CO (385-5)

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Independence Day Holiday Safety Message

1. Celebrating America's independence is an important event and a memorable experience we enjoy as Americans. Historically, some of the Army's soldiers, civilians and their families have not survived the celebration due to needless mishaps. Fun rapidly turns into tragedy when mixing alcohol with driving or recreational activities. This 4th of July, we also find ourselves under increased threat conditions. In addition to safety precautions, consider security precautions as well. Don't think you can drop your guard while celebrating the holiday. There are elements out there that attach significance to this holiday and may see it as an opportunity to act. The bottom line is for all of us to be aware of the existence of the potential threats and hazards.
2. Our Army does a good job of preventing accidents and fatalities while on the job. However, additional work is required to stop the deaths occurring off-duty. Off-duty POV accidents remain the number one killer of soldiers, and the summer months are the deadliest. Our goal is "No Lose of Life" due to Army accidents in Europe. One accident-related fatality is too many.
3. Leaders at every level will conduct pre-holiday safety briefings for their personnel prior to Thursday, 03 July 2003. During your holiday safety briefing, place special emphasis on personal risk management, the hazards of drinking and driving and the continued use of seat belts.
4. To reduce the hazards that summer brings, heed the lessons learned from past accidents and highlight the topics below in safety briefings for our personnel:
 - a. DUI and the use of public transportation.
 - b. Have a designated driver plan.
 - c. POV Safety Inspections.
 - d. Use of seatbelts by all vehicle occupants.
 - e. Use of protective equipment by motorcyclists.
 - f. When traveling, be well rested and take frequent rest stops along the way.
 - g. Individual risk assessments for summer-related activities.
 - h. Fire prevention in personal living quarters.
 - i. Drowning prevention for swimmers and non-swimmers and use of the buddy system.
 - j. Swimming only in authorized swimming areas.
 - k. Common sense when handling fireworks.
 - l. Hot weather injury prevention.

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5. Take great pride and satisfaction in knowing that we are protecting America's freedom and independence. Whether family members are deployed or in garrison, protecting ourselves and those we love from holiday hazards is an important part of our mission, and will help assure an enjoyable Independence Day holiday celebration. As we celebrate this holiday, take a minute to remember the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines that have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms we enjoy as Americans and say a prayer for their family's strength and endurance through this important American holiday.

6. I hope you and your families enjoy this year's Independence Day Celebration and that you come out to our community events and activities. Thank you for continuing to make the 233rd Base Support Battalion your Army "Community of Choice".

DIST: B

L.J. STRIFE
LTC, MI
Commanding